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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,541	06/27/2003	William Marvin	2073.0080000	6135
26111	7590	04/08/2005		
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER	KAVANAUGH, JOHN T
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3728	

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/607,541	MARVIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ted Kavanaugh	3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-9,11,12,24-27,29,30 and 35-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 25-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 2-9,11,12,24,29,30 and 35-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3-14-04,8-23-04,8-24-04
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on March 14, 2005. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 2,5-9,11-12,24,35,42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5014449 (Richard et al).

Richard teaches a shoe sole comprising a container (12) having a first wall, a second wall and a sidewall, the sidewall including a plurality of ridges (see figure 3); a foam core (32) disposed within the container space. The foam could be a single foam piece as shown or foam pieces having a first density and a second density; sees col. 5, lines 3-11. The foam piece can also have open compartments filled with ambient air, fluid other than air, or pressurized air or gas, see col. 5, lines 11-16.

4. Claims 29,39,42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5235715 (Donzis).

Donzis teaches a shoe sole comprising a container (12,14) having a first wall, a second wall and a sidewall; a foam core (11) disposed within the container space with multiple compartments (see figures 10-13) and a fluid (see col. 7, lines 39-41) disposed in the core. The foam core and the container, as shown in figures 11 and 13, jointly define the apertures 88,97

leading to the multiple channels. Regarding claims 5 and 6, there is a valve (16) provided and therefore the fluid pressure is controlled and can be atmospheric pressure or greater.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3 and 4 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richard '449 in view of Official Notice.

Richard teaches the shoe sole as claimed except for the fluid being nitrogen and a gel. The examiner takes official notice that it is old and conventional in the art for nitrogen and gel to be used as a fluid to fill a shoe bladder/chamber/container to provide improved and different cushioning characteristics. Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide the fluid in Richard to be either a nitrogen gas or a gel.

7. Claims 29,30 and 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richard '449 in view of US 5235715 (Donzis).

Richard teaches a shoe sole as claimed (see the rejection above for details) except for a multiple of compartments connected via at least one fluid channel. Donzis teaches a similar show sole cushioning device (hollow container 12,14, a core 11 disposed therein) having a multiple of compartments connected via at least one fluid channel (see figures 10-13 and col. 7, lines 39-41) disposed in the core. The foam core and the container, as shown in figures 11 and 13, jointly define the apertures 88,97 leading to the multiple channels. It would have been

obvious to provide the container of Richard with a multiple of compartments connected via at least one fluid channel, as taught by Donzis, to provide improved cushioning characteristics.

8. Claims 29,30 and 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donzis '715 in view Richard.

Donzis teaches a shoe sole as claimed (see the rejection above for details) except for the sidewall having a plurality of ridges. Richard teaches providing a similar structure with a plurality of ridges (22). It would have been obvious to provide the sidewalls of Donzis with a plurality of ridges, as taught by Richard, to provide added cushioning and resilience.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 25-27 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

12. Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.111, including:

“The reply must present arguments pointing out the *specific* distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references.”

—“A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section.”

—Moreover, “The prompt development of a clear issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims. Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06” MPEP 714.02. The “disclosure” includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Other useful information can be obtained at the PTO Home Page at www.uspto.gov.

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (703) 872-9306 (**FORMAL FAXES ONLY**). Please identify Examiner Ted Kavanaugh of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Ted Kavanaugh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4556. The examiner can normally be reached from 6AM - 4PM.



Ted Kavanaugh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

TK
April 5, 2005